



Tempe Art in Private Development



Papago Hills Retail Court

1158 N. Priest Drive

Thomas Strich

Fountain of Gathered Waters,
Arborescent Dome, 2004

Painted steel, concrete and
Yavapai coral stone

Artist Website:
www.Thomas-Strich.com

Description: At the Papago Hills Retail Court, the signature feature, *Arborescent Dome*, is a shade structure designed as a portal for pedestrian traffic into the site, and as a shaded resting place that serves as a reminder of the native desert environment of Papago Park. The inner supports of the green dome are vaulted and branched like tree limbs, while the surface is cut in the abstracted pattern of a tree canopy viewed in silhouette. *Fountain of Gathered Waters* is a water feature shaped like a gate-valve box similar to those used throughout the valley's canal system. The perimeter walls are configured like an ancient Indian ruin, reminiscent of the Hohokom site nearby. All the elements are clad in Yavapai coral stone whose pink color makes reference to the exposed rock of the Papago Buttes. *Arborescent Dome* and *Fountain of Gathered Waters* earned the Papago Hills Retail Court team a Beautification Award for Art in Private Development Excellence in 2005.

Artist biography: Thomas Strich was born and raised in California. He received a double B.A. degree in Studio Art and Art Theory from the University of California, Santa Cruz and received an M.F.A. degree in Sculpture from Arizona State University. Strich has been an Arizona-based artist since 1990, and since 1995 he has been applying his skills as a mixed media artist and photographer toward urban planning processes and public art projects. He has completed public art and private development projects for the City of Tempe, City of Phoenix, and the Town of Queen Creek. Through his contributions to numerous public art projects, Strich has been dedicated to making his art input integrally shape the development, design and meaning of these projects.

Funding: This project was funded by the independent developer, Chamberlain Development LLC, as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.